

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A weed puller for gathering weeds at the interstices between the weed foliage above the ground and the weed root below the ground, the weed puller comprising:

a handle for being held by a standing operator at one end and supporting a body generally normal to the handle at a bottom distal end thereof;

the body defining two blunted prongs on either side of a central axis of the body extending away from the handle along the body, each prong terminating in a free end;

the two blunted prongs defining therebetween a V-shaped gathering gap formed by blunted opposed V-shaped edges on either side of the axis which extend from the free ends of the prongs to a blunted, rounded inner end of the gap;

the body having a first body portion which is planar and at substantial right angles to the handle between the handle and the V-shaped gathering gap, the inner end of the gap being located in the first body portion, and a second body portion which is planar and includes portions of the two blunted prongs including the free ends thereof, the first portion being separated from the second portion along a bending axis normal to the central axis of the body; and

the second body portion including portions of the two prongs being bent towards the handle at an obtuse angle along the bending axis to form a weed pulling cradle area between the first body portion and the second body portion in the body;

whereby a weed gathered between the V-shaped gathering gap between the weed foliage and the weed root is pulled between the first body portion and the second body portion by the weed pulling cradle area when the handle is withdrawn from the ground towards the standing operator.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The weed puller according to claim 1 wherein the body defines a rectilinear exterior profile.

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (previously presented): The weed puller according to claim 2 wherein the two prongs each define portions of the rectilinear exterior profile of the hoe body portion; and the body is sharpened along the rectilinear exterior profile for use of the body for conventional weeding.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): A weed puller for pulling weeds including their roots out of the ground without severing the weeds from their roots, the puller comprising:

an elongated body defining a body axis and first and second body portions which are angularly inclined about a bending axis that is transverse to the body axis located between ends of the body, the first body portion being connected to a handle extending generally perpendicularly to the first body portion, the second body portion being inclined relative to the first body portion about the bending axis at an angle between 10° to 50°; and

a generally V-shaped gap formed in the body and extending from an open end of the gap at a free end of the second body portion past [[a]] the bending line axis into the first body portion and terminating at a rounded, blunted end of the gap in the first body portion, a first section of the V-shaped gap being defined by converging, blunted edges and a which diverge at a first, relatively larger angle towards the open end of the gap, a second section of the gap defined by blunted edges extending from the rounded, blunted end at the first body portion extending between the blunted edges and forming of the gap to the first section of the V-shaped gap which diverges at a second, relatively lesser angle towards the first section of the V-shaped gap to form a relatively narrow slot proximate the rounded, blunted end of the gap accommodating the root of the weed when the puller is pulled along the ground and the root has entered the gap without severing the root while a plant portion of the weed is gathered on top of the body in the vicinity of the bending axis to thereby permit pulling the weed including its root out of the ground.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A weed puller according to claim 6 wherein the angle is approximately 30°.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): A weed puller for removing weeds including their roots from the ground comprising:

a generally rectilinear plate having a length which is greater than its width and defining first and second plate portions which are contiguous in a longitudinal direction of the plate;

a connector proximate a longitudinal end of the first plate portion for attaching a handle to the plate; and

a V-shaped slot having opposing, blunted sides and a rounded, blunted inner slot end connecting the sides extending in a longitudinal direction from a free end of the second plate portion towards and into the first plate portion, ~~edges of the plate defining the V-shaped groove being blunted to prevent them from cutting weeds and their roots,~~ the slot having a first section extending from the free end of the second plate portion towards the inner slot end and a second section between the inner slot end and the first section, sides of the slot along the first section thereof converging towards the inner slot end and sides of the slot along the second section being substantially parallel, the second plate portion being bent relative to the first plate portion in a transverse direction at a location along the length of the plate ~~so that an inner end of the V-shaped groove is at least partly located within the first plate portion and forms spaced apart prongs extending from the first plate portion over the length of the second portion and terminating in free ends which are bent relative to the first plate portion towards the handle~~ connector to form a weed gathering cradle defined by the first and second plate portions which overlies the slot.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A weed puller according to claim 9 wherein lateral sides of the plate define sharpened edges.

Claim 11 (new): A weed puller according to claim 6 wherein the first and second body portions in a vicinity of the bending axis define a weed gathering cradle, and wherein the gap overlies the weed gathering cradle to facilitate pulling the weeds including their roots from the ground when the weed gathering cradle supports the weeds while their roots extend through the gap.

Claim 12 (new): A weed puller according to claim 9 wherein the second plate portion is angularly inclined relative to the first plate portion by an angle of 30°.